

Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW  
Washington DC 20554

CABLE SERVICES BUREAU

CS 97-55

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FCC MAIL ROOM

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CS Docket No. 97-55

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Dear FCC,

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I appreciate the opportunity to file this formal comment concerning the ratings system recently implemented by the television industry.

It is my view that the age-based system that has been adopted by the television industry is not adequate to accomplish the goal for which it was implemented. There are several ways that an age-based system fails, and I would like to draw your attention to two of them.

The first problem is that it is administered by the television industry itself. If the goal is to protect our children from explicit sex, violence, and language content, then the public would be well served by having an independent body overseeing this function. We cannot reasonably expect "the fox to guard the hen house". Whatever ratings system is implemented, it must be administered by those who have the best interests of America's children as their motive. The television industry is incapable of rating the content of their own productions, because profit is their primary motive.

Secondly, a poor ratings standard is worse than no ratings system at all. The current age-based system gives no guidelines concerning the offensive *content* of the shows. If we don't specifically address what is offensive in a given show's *content*, then all we are doing is giving the television programmers a shield to hide behind when consumers are offended at what television contains. The age of the viewer is relatively insignificant at this point. Offensive content is offensive content, for adults as well as children. There should be no double-standard.

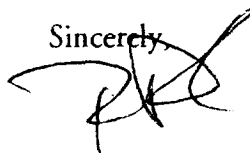
Instead of the current age-based system, a better plan would be a content-based system administered by individuals who are fully independent of TV production and profits, who have high moral and ethical standards which flow from the Judeo-Christian faith upon which this nation was founded.

Traditionally, parents have been the primary filter for protecting America's youth from inappropriate TV viewing. In view of the relatively weak state of the modern American family, it becomes all the more important for the FCC to implement TV ratings which truly offers *all* viewers protection from the daily bombardment of explicit sex, violence, and language which characterizes much of current television programming.

The best solution is for the television industry to quit broadcasting explicit sex, violence, and language. Until that unlikely event happens, it is up to good and moral people to prevail in this effort of determining what is appropriate for public television viewing.

I urge the FCC to implement content-based ratings, which afford Americans the *most* protection possible.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ronald Palmer  
219 Bayway Drive  
Webster, NY 14580

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Federal Communications Commission  
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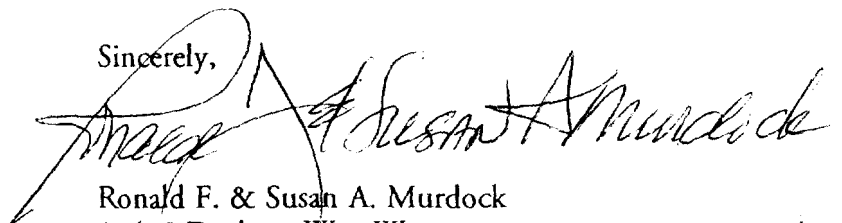
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Sincerely,



Ronald F. & Susan A. Murdock  
15485 Durham Way West  
Granger, IN 46530

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February 25, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Commissioners,

I'm taking this opportunity to give you my view of the new TV rating system. The new system is totally inadequate because the ratings are being put on the shows by the producers of the shows. Talk about the possibility for abuse in ratings! There certainly needs to be a more objective source for the TV ratings. What is acceptable to a seasoned veteran producer is not always what we want our kids to watch. Please help the industry to come up with a better way of rating TV programming. Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Judy Fabris*

Judy Fabris  
3401 Big Oak CT  
Hayward, CA 94542

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